

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2 and 4-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 8 are amended, support for which is found in the original claims, in the drawings at least in Figs. 2 and 4, and in the specification at page 2, lines 20-23. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph; Claims 1-2, 4-5 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2001-022499 (Suzuki) in view of JP 2004-157677 (Satoshi); and Claims 6-7 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. 5,017,770 (Sigalov).

Initially, reconsideration of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested. The Office Action stated that the claimed recitation of “an equilateral triangle” is not supported in the specification. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

An “equilateral triangle” is clearly supported by Fig. 10C and page 24, lines 18-28 in the specification. Specifically, the triangle shown in Fig. 10C is an equilateral triangle (see the labeled proportions of  $0.8 \cdot D \times \sqrt{3}/2$ ) in view of the specification at page 24, lines 18-28 which recites the interval pitch between nozzles as  $0.8 \cdot D \times \sqrt{3}/2$ . Also, compare with Figs. 10B and 10D, which also show equilateral polygon nozzle arrangements (i.e. Fig. 10B shows an equilateral rectangle - a square - and Fig. 10C shows an equilateral hexagon).

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the claimed recitation of “an equilateral triangle” is supported in the specification and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn. Should the Examiner disagree, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to discuss this issue.

As to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Claims 1 and 8 are amended to recite that the receiver is separated from a surface on which the nozzles that form the equilateral triangular shape are arranged. It is respectfully submitted the cited references fail to disclose or suggest this feature.

The Office Action acknowledges Suzuki fails to disclose nozzles arranged in an equilateral triangle shape in a jetting unit, but relies on Satoshi to describe nozzles as arranged in an equilateral triangular shape in a jetting unit. However, Satoshi describes a nozzle arrangement which opposes the claimed arrangement of a receiver being separated from a surface on which the nozzles are arranged to form the equilateral triangular shape.

Specifically, Satoshi discloses a mechanism for controlling a receiver 14 by using nozzles 11, 12 and 13 as shown in Fig. 3. However, in the mechanism shown in Fig. 3 in Satoshi, *the receiver 14 is arranged on a plane on which the nozzles 11, 12 and 13 are placed.*<sup>1</sup> Consequently, Satoshi fails to teach or suggest the claimed feature of “the receiver is separated from a surface on which the nozzles that form the equilateral triangular shape are arranged,” as recited in Claims 1 and 8.

None of the other cited references overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Suzuki and Satoshi.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted Claims 1 and 8 (and any claims depending therefrom) are allowable over the cited references and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

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<sup>1</sup> Satoshi, Figs. 3 and 4.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above comments, it is respectfully submitted the outstanding grounds for rejection have been overcome and the pending claims are in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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